

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

PRESCRIBED BURNING

(Acre)

CODE 338

DEFINITION

Applying controlled fire to predetermined area.

PURPOSES

- To control undesirable vegetation.
- Prepare sites for planting or seeding.
- Control plant disease.
- Reduce wildfire hazards.
- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage production quantity and/or quality.
- Slash and debris removal.
- Enhance seed and seedling production.
- To facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all landuses.

CRITERIA

The procedure, equipment, and the number of trained personnel shall be adequate to accomplish the intended purpose. The timing of the burn will be based on, as a minimum: relative humidity, wind conditions, air temperature, and fuel conditions.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including the state's Best Management Practices (BMPs) and permit requirements.

CONSIDERATIONS

Burning should be managed with consideration for wildlife needs such as nesting and feeding cover and conditions needed for ecosystem restoration.

Existing barriers such as lakes, streams, wetlands, roads, and constructed firebreaks are important to the design and layout of this practice.

Adjoining landowners within the airshed should be notified prior to burning.

Liability and safety precautions are to be planned before the burn and monitored during the burn.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications (burn plan) for burning shall be prepared for each site. Specifications shall be recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. Required local and state permits will be secured for the planned burn. Only persons certified to complete burn plans and act as the fire boss during the burn shall sign off on the plans.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.